

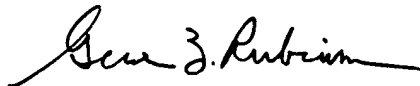
REMARKS

Claims 9 through 26 remain pending in this application. The March 12, 2004 Office Action (hereinafter "the Office Action") has allowed these claims, as indicated at the penultimate paragraph of page 4. It is submitted, therefore, that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

It is noted, for purposes of clarifying the record, that the "Office Action Summary" portion of the Office Action incorrectly indicates that claims 1-4 and 9-22 were pending. It appears that the summary page inadvertently incorporated the claim pendency status of the previous Office Action. As this discrepancy is not material to the application at present, allowance is respectfully solicited. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 9, 2004